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TO: Deborah Gaskin, Director  
Board of Ethics

FROM: Irvin Corley, Jr., Fiscal Analysis Director

DATE: April 27, 2007

RE: 2007-08 Budget Analysis

14.

Attached is our budget analysis regarding your department's budget for the upcoming 2007-2008 Fiscal Year.

Please be prepared to respond to the issues/questions raised in our analysis during your scheduled hearing. We would then appreciate a written response to the issues/questions at your earliest convenience subsequent to your budget hearing. Please forward a copy of your responses to the Councilmembers and the City Clerk's Office.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding our budget analysis.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

IC:ss

#### Attachment

cc: Councilmembers  
Council Divisions  
Auditor General's Office  
Pamela Scales, Budget Department Director  
Roger Short, Finance Department Director  
Ron Chenault, Budget Department Team Leader  
Kandia Milton, Mayor's Office

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## **Board of Ethics**

### **FY 2007-2008 Budget Analysis by the Fiscal Division**

#### **Summary**

In Section 2-106 of the City Charter, Standards of Conduct, the Board of Ethics was established as an independent body. The Board consists of seven (7) members of the public. Both the Mayor and City Council each appoint three members, and one member is jointly appointed. Members of the Board serve without compensation.

The Board issues advisory opinions on the meaning and application of the provisions of the Charter, City ordinances or other laws or regulations establishing standards of conduct for elective officers, appointees, or employees. The Board also investigates and resolves complaints regarding alleged violations of the Ethics Ordinance. The Board annually in a report to the Mayor and City Council publishes advisory opinions, which shall not disclose the identity of the elective officers, appointees, or employees concerned. City Council approved amendments to the Ethics Ordinance on November 28, 2006.

Funding for the Board is included in the City's Non-Departmental Agency Appropriation 10397. The Board has a two-person staff: an executive director and an administrative secretary. The Mayor's proposed 2007-2008 budget and the current fiscal year budget include the same positions.

<u>Appropriation.</u>	<u>Program</u>	
10397	Board of Ethics	The Mayor recommends a total fiscal year 2007-2008 appropriation of \$255,016 for the Board of Ethics, which is an increase of \$7,989 (3.2%) from the current year's budget of \$247,027. The \$7,989 increase is a result of a rise of \$5,848 in salaries and \$6,950 in other costs, and a decrease of \$4,809 in benefits.

#### **Issues and Questions**

1. In the Department's request for funding, \$12,070 was for training. This is an increase of \$10,970 from the current year's budget of \$1,100. The Mayor proposes \$5,000 for training. How will this impact your goals of educating employees and the community?
2. The Board also requested \$12,000 in miscellaneous expenses for fiscal year 2007-2008, but the Mayor recommended no amount. In the current year's budget, \$100 is appropriated. What is the \$12,000 for? Without the funding, how will the Board be impacted?
3. In the Board's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Report, it is stated that the Board would like to increase public awareness of the Ethics Ordinance by making presentations to community

groups and organizations. How many of these presentations have you conducted in the current fiscal year?

4. Does the Board plan to provide yearly ethics training to City departments?
5. Ethics is a critical issue right now among businesses in light of recent events. What does the Board feel is the biggest challenge to teaching ethics to City employees and the community?
6. Has the Board found any City agencies that suffer from breaches of the Ethics Ordinance?
7. What obstacles do you foresee that may keep you from achieving your goals and objectives?
8. What results has the Board achieved in making the City government more ethical?
9. How does the Board measure itself in making City government more ethical?